

## State Forest Lands

### **Big Rivers State Forest and Wildlife Management Area**

*(Crittenden and Union Counties)*

### **Green River State Forest**

*(Henderson County)*

### **Knobs State Forest and Wildlife Management Area**

*(Bullitt County)*

### **Kentonia State Forest**

*(Harlan County)*

### **Kentucky Ridge State Forest**

*(Bell County)*

### **Marion County State Forest and Wildlife Management Area**

*(Marion County)*

### **Marrowbone State Forest and Wildlife Management Area**

*(Metcalf and Cumberland Counties)*

### **Pennyriple State Forest**

*(Caldwell and Christian Counties)*

### **Rolleigh Peterson Educational Forest**

*(Jefferson County)*

### **Tygarts State Forest**

*(Carter County)*

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## Kentucky's State Forests

Managing forest lands for our future

### Pennyriple State Forest



The Kentucky Division of Forestry owns and manages ten state forests with a combined total of over 47,954 acres for the purpose of demonstrating proper forest stewardship practices. The state forests are open to the public for hiking, wildlife viewing, picnicking and other activities. Primitive camping, horseback riding and regulated hunting and fishing are also permitted on specified state forest properties. Off-road vehicles, including ATVs are prohibited on all state forests. For more information and directions, please contact:

**Kentucky Division of Forestry**  
**627 Comanche Trail**  
**Frankfort, Kentucky 40601**  
**502-564-4496**  
<http://forestry.ky.gov>

## Discover Forest Management

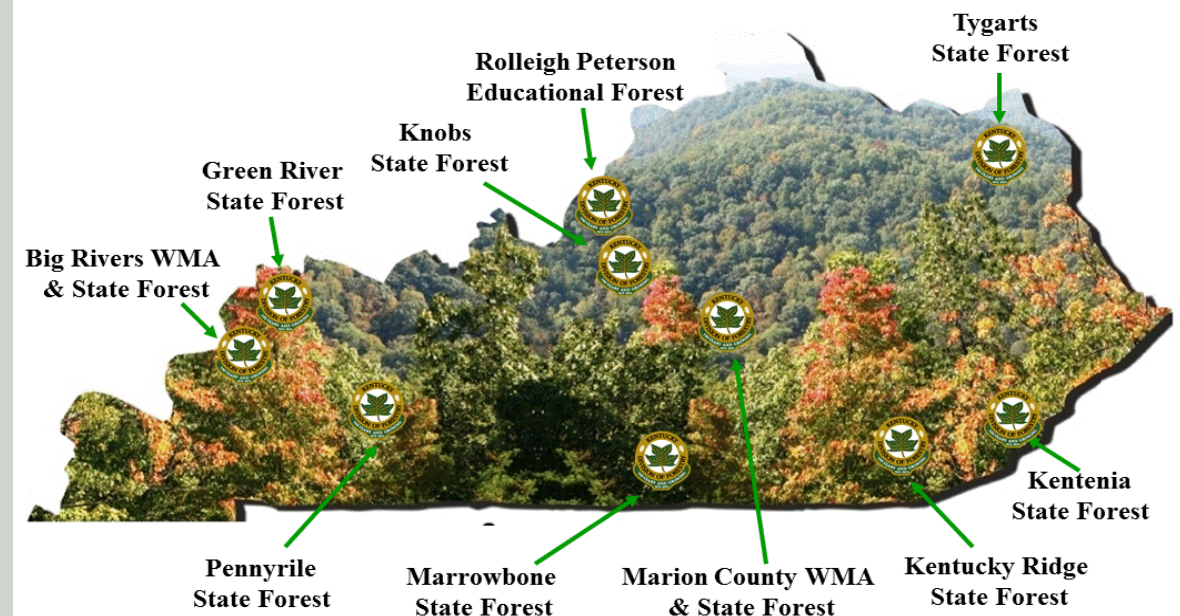
State forest properties are managed using the ecosystem management approach to ensure biological diversity and sustainable use. They are working forests with demonstration areas for the purpose of promoting good forestry practices. Good forestry practices (also known as forest stewardship) incorporate managing, growing, nurturing and harvesting trees for the following:

- **Timber production**
- **Soil, air and water quality**
- **Wildlife and fish habitat**
- **Aesthetics**
- **A stable economy**



Good forestry practices are also used to protect forests from wildfire, pests, diseases, invasive plants and other damaging agents in order to maintain long-term forest health and productivity.

## Kentucky's State Forests



## Pennyrile's History

Pennyrile State Forest and Pennyrile State Resort Park—located near Dawson Springs, Kentucky—was originally settled by John Thompson in the early 1800's. The area was a farming and logging community until the 1930's when the Great Depression made it difficult to profit from the sub-marginal land. In 1932, the USDA Resettlement Administration bought 15,331 acres and helped to relocate many of the original families. During the next five years, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) rehabilitated 14,000 acres of eroded farm land and cut-over timber. The WPA also planted 2 million seedlings (mostly pine) and built a lodge, cabins and the Pennyrile Lake Dam. In 1946, the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) obtained rights to the forest and began managing timber for resource utilization. Pennyrile State Resort Park officially opened to the public in 1954. Today, the State Forest, State Park and Tradewater Wildlife Management Area encompass 16,399 acres.

## Forest Health Impacts

Despite a long history of practicing forest stewardship at Pennyrile, there have been many challenges in achieving overall health of the forest. Disease, insects, storm damage, drought and other forest health impacts have taken a toll over the years. In 2001, an infestation of southern pine beetle heavily impacted the pine forest leaving dead and dying trees. As a result, KDF began harvesting the pines in an effort to convert the low-quality pine stands to native hardwoods. KDF foresters found that a complete removal—or regeneration harvest—was the most effective course in converting the non-native pine to hardwoods, while allowing higher-quality southern yellow pine to regenerate as a mixed oak/pine stand. Recent ice and wind storms have caused significant damage to the forest as well.



## Current Management

KDF foresters continue to harvest pine that have been damaged by insect infestation and severe weather events. Management goals also include implementing techniques to convert the forest to a higher-quality stand of hardwoods. These techniques include harvests, thinnings, mid-story removal and other types of timber stand practices.



## Future Goals

The future goals for Pennyrile State Forest involve using forest inventory information to formulate and implement timber management plans. KDF will also continue with current practices and activities including:

- **Quality timber management** for resource utilization.
- **Demonstration areas** for showing how the forest responds to management activities.
- **Research plots** for studying oak and pine regeneration.
- **Wildlife management** to improve habitat.
- **Recreational opportunities** for hiking, cycling, horseback riding, hunting and camping.
- **Preservation** of critical areas such as Clifty Creek Registered Natural Area.

